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B Y C O N S T A N T I N E J O H N P H I P P S

L O N D O N ;

PRINTED BY W. BOWYER AND J. NICHOLS,
FOR J. NOURSE, BOOKSELLER TO HIS MAJESTY,
IN THE STRAND.

MDCCLXXIV.

N A T U R A L H I S T O R Y.

THOUGH the shortness of my stay at Spitsbergen, and the multiplicity of occupations, in which I was necessarily employed, during the greatest part of that time, rendered it impossible for me to make many observations on its natural productions; yet as there are among those few some which have not before been made public, I am in hopes that this article will not be found wholly unprofitable. The following catalogue, imperfect as it is, may serve to give a general idea of the sparing productions of that inhospitable climate.

As modern naturalists have formed the technical terms of their science out of the Latin, it becomes necessary to make some use of that language, in order to render the descriptions of such things as are new, intelligible to those for whose use they are intended: I shall always, however, annex English names to the scientifick ones, when such are to be found.

M A M M A L I A.

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TRICHECHUS *Rosmarus*, Linn. *Syst. Nat.* 49. 1.
Arctic Walrus. Penn. Syn. *Quadr.*
p. 335. *Trinch ed.* p. 187

This animal, which is called by the Russians Morfe, from thence by our seamen corruptly Sea Horse, and in the Gulph of St. Lawrence Sea Cow, is found every where about the coast of Spitsbergen, and generally where-ever there is ice, though at a distance from the land. It is a gregarious animal, not inclined to attack, but dangerous if attacked, as the whole herd join their forces to revenge any injury received by an individual.

PHOCA *Vitulina*. Linn. *Syst. Nat.* 56. 3. *Tr. ed.* p. 188
Common Seal. Penn. Syn. *Quadr.* p. 339.

Found on the coast of Spitsbergen.

CANIS *Lagopus*. Linn. *Syst. Nat.* 95. 63. *Tr. ed.* p. 188
Arctic Fox. Penn. Syn. *Quadr.* p. 155.

Found on the main land of Spitsbergen and islands adjacent, though not in any abundance. It differs from our Fox, besides its colour, in having its ears much more rounded. It smells very little. We ate of the flesh of one, and found it good meat.

A P P E N D I X.

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URSUS *Maritimus*. Linn. Syst. Nat. 70. 1. *Fr. Ed. p. 188*

Polar Bear. Penn. Syn. Quadr. p. 192. T. 20. F. 1.

Found in great numbers on the main land of Spitsbergen; as also on the islands and ice fields adjacent. We killed several with our musquets, and the seamen ate of their flesh, though exceeding coarse. This animal is much larger than the black bear; the dimensions of one were as follows:

	Feet.	Inches.
Length from the snout to the tail, -	7	1
Length from the snout to the shoulder-bone, -	2	3
Height at the shoulder, - - -	4	3
Circumference near the fore legs, - - -	7	0
Circumference of the neck close to the ear, -	2	1
Breadth of the fore paw, - - -	0	7
Weight of the carcass without head, skin or entrails, - - -	610 lb.	

CERVUS *Tarandus*. Linn. Syst. Nat. 93. 4.

Rein Deer. Penn. Syn. Quadr. p. 46. T. 8.

F. 1. *Fr. ed. p. 189*

Found every where on Spitsbergen.

We ate the flesh of one which we killed, and found it excellent venison.

BALAENA *Mysticetus*. Linn. Syst. Nat. 105. 1. *Fr. Ed. p. 190*

Common Whale. Penn. Brit. Zool. p. 85.

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This species, which is fought after by the fishermen in preference to all other whales, is found generally near the ice. We saw but few of them during our stay.

BALAENA *Physalus*. Linn. Syst. Nat. 106. 2.

Fin Fish. Penn. Brit. Zool. p. 41. *For. ed. p. 190*

Found in the ocean near Spitsbergen.

A V E S.

ANAS *mollissima*. Linn. Syst. Nat. 198. 15.

Eider Duck. Penn. Brit. Zool. p. 454.

Found on the coast of Spitsbergen.

For. ed. p. 190

ALCA *arctica*. Linn. Syst. Nat. 211. 4.

The Puffin. Penn. Brit. Zool. p. 405.

Found on the coast of Spitsbergen.

For. ed. p. 190

ALCA *Alle*. Linn. Syst. Nat. 211. 5.

Found on the coast of Spitsbergen in great abundance.

For. ed. p. 190

PROCELLARIA *glacialis*. Linn. Syst. Nat. 213. 3.

The Fulmar. Penn. Brit. Zool. p. 431.

Found on the coast of Spitsbergen.

For. ed. p. 191

COLYMBUS *Grylle*. Linn. Syst. Nat. 220. 1.

Found on the coast of Spitsbergen.

For. ed. p. 191

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COLYMBUS *Troile*. Linn. Syst. Nat. 220. 2. *Fried. p. 191*
Found on the coast of Spitsbergen.

COLYMBUS *glacialis*. Linn. Syst. Nat. 221. 5. *do p. 191*
The great Northern Diver. Penn. Brit.
Zool. p. 413.
Found on the coast of Spitsbergen.

LARUS *Rissa*. Linn. Syst. Nat. 224. 1. *do p. 191*
Found on the coast of Spitsbergen.

LARUS *Parasiticus*. Linn. Syst. Nat. 226. 10. *do p. 191*
The Arctick Gull. Penn. Brit. Zool. p. 420.
Found on the coast of Spitsbergen.

LARUS *Eburneus*, *niveus*, *immaculatus*, *pedibus* *do p. 191*
plumbeo-cinereis.
Found on the coast of Spitsbergen.

This beautiful bird is not described by Linnæus, nor, I believe, by any other author; it is nearly related indeed to the Rathsher, described by Marten in his voyage to Spitsbergen, (See page 77 of the English translation) but, unless that author is much mistaken in his description, differs essentially from it. Its place in the *Systema Naturæ* seems to be next after the *Larus naevius*, where the specifick difference given above, which will distinguish